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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 1969

SPECIAL INVENTORS' ISSUE

Ingenious Inventions To Be Seen

When the doors open on the 5th Annual Inventors and Manufacturers Exposition in Livingston, April 18, attendees will see some mighty interesting innovations.

At press time we had learned of a convertible dune buggy to be displayed. This vehicle is at home on land or snow, and converts from skiis to wheels in a jiffy, can be licensed for highway travel, and is capable of 35 MPH. A water saucer will be shown, as a jet-propelled, one-man water polo vehicle. A portable dredge system for placer mining will be demonstrated.

Another inventor will be demonstrating a coin cleaning kit for coin collectors. He claims he can clean coins safely, without removing the mint finish.

A man from Great Falls has perfected a 3-man checker board, which he says is a riot to play.

Custom made bar tops made from Montana Stone will be on exhibit along with tables and light fixtures of the same material.

There will be a demonstration on the use of lapidary equipment, and on metal detectors, geiger counters, and other prospecting devices.

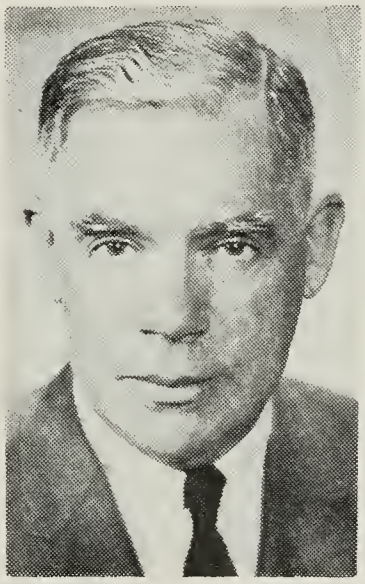
Farmers who irrigate will be interested in the fiberglass dam for irrigation ditches, which can be set into a full flowing ditch, and removed easily.

Stockmen will see an automatic stock waterer which operates like a spring, to insure clean, fresh water at all seasons of the year. Also an automatic self-opening and closing stockyard gate.

A device to enable one man to place heavy loads on a truck will be demonstrated, as well as a portable sharpener for tools such as axes, and other large implements.

A submersible pump which operates from the power takeoff of a tractor will be shown.

Inventors To Hear Patent Office Info Director



Isaac Fleischmann, director of Information Services for the U. S. Patent Office, will be the banquet speaker for the Associated Inventors of Montana in Livingston, April 17.

He has served in the Office of Information services since it's establishment in 1950. Prior to that he has been in Government service since 1942, having activity in the Lend Lease Administration, Office of Price Administration, Manpower training, and Training Branch of the U. S. Patent Office.

Fleischmann has received the Department of Commerce silver and gold Meritorious service awards, the Patent Office award for superior accomplishments in 4 different years, and the Silver Anvil award from the Public Relations Society of America.

The Inventors of Montana are looking forward to the message Fleischmann will bring them.

Fifth Annual Show

For the fifth consecutive year the Associated Inventors of Montana will hold their Exposition to give Montanans an opportunity to see Montana Invented and manufactured items.

This year Livingston plays host to the congress in their spacious Civic Center building on April 18 and 19.

Co-sponsors of the event, and assisting AIM with arrangements, are the Livingston Chamber of Commerce, the State Department of Planning and Economic Development, and the Montana Chamber of Commerce.

The Inventors annual banquet will be held at the Elks Club on Thursday evening, April 17.

The Inventors will have an opportunity to talk with several consultants who will be in attendance. They represent agencies which offer assistance in matters of financing, marketing, patents, manufacturing, and engineering.

Exhibits will be on display to the public between noon and 10 p.m., April 18 and all day Saturday the 19.

A small admission charge will be made. School groups, such as science classes, will be admitted free when accompanied by their instructor.

AIM To Elect Officers

A new corps of officers and directors will emerge from the annual Inventors meeting and exposition this year.

Currently serving the association are; Harold T. Wicklund of Missoula, President; E. G. "Pat" Dahl of Billings, Vice President; Ernest A. Neath, Helena, as secretary-treasurer. Directors include; Angelo Crisafulli, Glendive; Leonard Grayson and Bernard Benson of Bozeman; Edward Bucko, Great Falls; Ivan Cranston, Stevensville; A. B. Bertelson, Jr., Cut Bank; Lester Hall, Livingston; Ben Huver, Laurel and Ray Gulck, Joplin.

Dahl is scheduled to succeed as president, and a new vice president will be elected from the membership.

Reviews Legislation

By Paul Carr

Personnel in the Department are in the process of reviewing and understanding the new legislation which is of particular interest to the department's responsibilities.

Of special interest are those bills which define the multiple use concept of land, sewer and water districts, other departments planning activities, creation of conservancy districts, designation of state parks, historical sites, creation of special improvement districts, increased city planning board jurisdiction areas, zoning of lands adjacent to the highway system, power of towns to trade or sell property, Smith River Canyon study, and the development credit corporation permissive law.

Understandably, all legislation is intended to favorably affect Montana, its people and its place in the development and economy of America. With this in mind, the planning staff reviews the legislation enumerated above, to determine how it can be effectively tied to the planning activities in Montana.

Need for Planning

Montana is losing its prime irrigated farm land to planned highways, airports, school sites, residential and business growth and other non-income producing uses.

According to Dr. E. R. Hehn, Head of the Plant and Soil Science Department, Montana State University, irrigated acres are of vital importance to Montana's 500 million dollar agricultural industry in both size and stability of income.

In a recent paper, "Use of the Land Resource in Montana," Dr. Hehn indicated that of the 93 million acres of land in Montana only 14.4 million acres were used as crop land in 1958. Irrigated crop land, however, totaled only 1.6 million acres.

Montana lost 9% of its irrigated crop land from 1946 to 1965. In the fertile intensively farmed flood plains where our major population centers are located, however, the losses far exceeded the state percentage. Yellowstone County lost 34% of its irrigated acres for this same period, and Missoula County lost 28%.

In the Gallatin Valley it was said that of the 90 square miles of class I and II land, 70 square miles remain in agricultural production. Dr. Hehn estimated that under current unrestricted land-use policies, this land is diverting to other non-income producing uses at the rate of one square mile per year.

City Limits Extended For Planning Purposes

By Jack Newsome

When HB 59 became law; the jurisdictional limits of City-County planning boards was increased from 4½ to 12 miles.

Immediately, questions arose as to the reason for the need of new limits, and how these new areas would be added to the tax rolls.

Most of Montana's larger cities are faced with a rapidly increasing urban sprawl. Much of that growth is taking place outside the city limits.

Planners are not basically interested in the reasons for this expansion, but confine their efforts toward an attempt to stimulate growth of any community in an orderly manner. Those areas seeking economic and civic growth need this kind of aid.

Planners do not attempt to prescribe exact conditions to be met, but try to guide the kind of thinking which leads to a better environment. Compatible land uses of contiguous parcels is of utmost importance.

Heretofore, most expansion in the majority of American communities has occured with unorganized spontaneity. Renewal of urban and business sections is often so costly and difficult that it cannot be considered. Sections of towns and cities gradually decay because of a lack of replacement capital, brought about by the ease of building new areas.

The environment of Montana's towns, while not considered as a priority item for expansion, helps mold business decision to grow indigenously or to move. Galloping, unplanned land use is then uppermost in the minds of planners, who urge legislation to control development in proper order.

HB 59 does not add any new controls, or increase the ease of administration. This bill merely extends a planning board's right to look into future local growth patterns and recommend changes necessary for better planned communities.

Some cities need the power to plan beyond an arbitrary 12-mile limit extending past the municipal boundary. Others do not. Any city with a desire to progress needs to plan, and concerned authorities, can do that planning conveniently within areas they feel will benefit.

The cost of planning for better highways, schools, hospitals, and public services is negligible when compared to the benefits derived. For example, locating a hospital in the wrong place can create problems which only a new building on a new site can alleviate.

HB 59 is good permissive legislation. It reflects a beginning of new and better planning regulations which Montana communities will rightly demand.

Buffalo Creek Study

Approximately 42% of Montana is now in public ownership. Much of this dispensed public land is widely scattered throughout the state and is not consolidated as in The National Park lands and the National Forest lands, nor is the use as well defined as in The National Parks and the National Forests. From time to time, questions arise concerning the multiple use, the highest and best use, and the management of the unconsolidated public lands.

The Buffalo Creek Planning Area Study is being undertaken by the Montana Council on Natural Resources and Development. This study will deal with these public land use questions.

Eleven state agencies represented on the council are assigned general areas of study relating to their respective departmental specializations. The purpose of the study is to make a detailed study of the public land situation in Montana from every possible angle. The 563 thousand acre Buffalo Creek Study Area northeast of Billings has been selected in order to study a typical area in Montana where the ownership pattern of land is a scattered one. The final goal will be to arrive at a joint conclusion in regard to the use of all lands, and possibly, to set a pattern for their future use.

The participating state departments have been studying the area from several points of view. Some of the topical study of the state agencies taking part in the study include range surveys, soil studies, wild life conditions, oil and gas deposits, water availability, recreation potential, and timber reserves.

The Department of Planning and Economic Development's part in The Buffalo Creek Study deals with the human elements in and around the study area. These elements include the population characteristics, housing, rural schools, and land use, and represent one segment of the comprehensive nature of the study.

When the findings are drawn together, it is intended that the specialized views of all concerns will represent a very detailed and comprehensive understanding of the elements which surround the public lands in The Buffalo Creek Study Area and in the State. Joint recommendations of the council may then evolve and sound planning for the best use of public land will be greatly aided.

Department To Function On $600,000 Budget

The 1969 Legislature awarded an operating budget of $300.000 per year for the coming biennium, to the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The request of Governor Anderson and the commission was for $850,000, and although a quarter-million dollars short, the biennium appropriation is about three times the amount used by the department in the past two years.

The State Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, League of Cities and Towns, along with business and civic leaders, supported the request for the larger amount which would have been matched by about $1.4 million in federal funds.

Governor Anderson stated that he was disappointed, but that he was hopeful a beginning could be made with the curtailed funds, toward increased economic development of the state.

The proposal for the $850,000 was made by the Commission, assisted by Perry Roys of Buffalo, N. Y., who has been retained as a consultant to the department. Roys is a former director of the Planning Board.

The new appropriation provides for a director's salary of $22,500 which allows the commission to select a well-trained, experienced individual to head up the department, and implement plans for the administration of the various divisions such as the Information System, Research, Industrial and Community Development divisions.

Grants Available For Indians

By Paul Carr

Montana Indian Reservations are now eligible, and some are activily planning to apply for and receive HUD "701" planning grants. These, together with the Comprehensive Plan,, are the keys to the door leading to many other HUD assistance programs.

The grants are similar to those of other non-Indian communities throughout the state except that the funding is 25% local and 75% federal. (Normal funding is ⅓-⅔)

The planning funds are in a special account in Washington, D. C., and earmarked for Indian reservations, federal impact areas, and disaster areas. $350,000 has been requested by the Department of Planning and Eco-

(Continued on Page 4)

Information Please

The Department of Planning and Economic Development receives many requests for data and information.

A study of such requests during 1968 was made to attempt classification of the types of data, and the profile of the requestors. The study will be used by the Information Division in developing the State System.

Results of the survey disclose that 43% of the requests are from students, (32% are out-of-state, and 11% in-state). Business requests total 12%, inquiries from families 9%, from Libraries and teachers 5½% each, and others 25%.

As to the types of data requested, 35% of all requests were industry-related and consisted of inquiries about agriculture, forests and fisheries 6%, natural resources 6%, manufacturing 2½%, and other industries 18%.

8% of the requests wanted information on population and income, 7% on land, (use, cost and taxation), 6% on climatic data, 5% on recreation, 5% on government data, 3% on education and research, 3% on labor, and 28% on all other miscellaneous programs.

Although the study was based on a departmental data request file, and represents about 25% of the total letters answered, the 1969 data requests are being abstracted in a data characteristic information request form and will be evaluated during the coming year.

Montana To Have Water-Sewer Plan

Montana will have a state-wide comprehensive water and sewer plan for 49 of the state's 56 counties.

The purpose of the study is to prepare a comprehensive plan for the municipal or public-type domestic water and sewer systems which should be developed, in addition to present systems, to adequately serve the present and probable future needs of the entire state area.

The planning area includes the whole state of Montana for communities having a population of 5,500 or under. Carbon, Cascade, Flathead, Jefferson, Richland, Stillwater, and Yellowstone Counties are not included in the study because they have either completed individual studies or presently have one underway.

The plan involves a grant of $285,-000.00 from The Farmers Home Administration. No local or state monies are required. The work period will be two years or into early 1971.

AVCO Takes GAFB

After being phased out by the Military services, the $100 million Glasgow Air Force Base is being converted to civilian use by AVCO, one of the largest companies in the world.

Clark E. Merchant, Glasgow Division Manager, states that they hope to hire workers who would want to live in one of the housing units on the base, where there are some 2,400 fine three and four bedroom homes, which could be rented at very reasonable rates, including utilities.

He indicated that they hope to have a bowling alley, food store, service station and other establishments working on the base.

Anyone who wants to work will be granted an interview.

According to Samuel J. Chapman, former director of the State Department of Planning and Economic Development, and now recruitment specialist for AVCO, the company will be screening about 76 employees in April, and a like amount in May. By June 1 they hope to have about 300 working for AVCO.

AVCO is considering the feasibility of certain manufactured items, including an air cushion snowmobile. Another idea is production of trailers for rent to vacationers.

Statistical Review Now Available

After being held up at the printers for many weeks, the STATISTICAL REVIEW booklets on Montana finally were made available.

The 46-page booklet was compiled by the Department of Planning and Economic Development, and is presented as a public service by the 16 affiliates of the First Bank System.

The contents include statistics on Agriculture, Banking, Business, Climate, Construction, Employment, Forests, Income, Land, Manufacturing, Mining, Population, and Taxation.

Copies are available from the department.

Planning Division Chief Resigns

Arthur H. Hartenberger, who has served the department for the past year as chief of the planning division, has submitted his resignation, effective in April.

He will become state planner for Alaska.

The department is sorry to see Art leave, and wishes him well in his new job.

Lewistown Plans for Flood Control

By Jack Newsome

Flood control, like the weather, is on many people's minds this spring, but Lewistown is doing something about it, according to Don Pfau, vice-chairman of the Lewistown City-County planning board, the chairman of the flood control study group.

The results of a year-long study into the feasibility, design, and future uses of dams in the Big Springs Creek watershed area have been recently released.

Concern on Big Springs Creek is almost an anuual affair, and the idea of control in the affected areas became the highest priority item of the board's many goals.

Development of many potential uses expected to result from the newly-adopted plan is estimated to bring economic benefits far in excess of the $2.5 million cost of the project. The $250,000 share of this amount designated for Lewistown was approved in a bond issue last year.

The success of the project has not been without problems, nor is clear sailing in the future expected. Long range need for the control of flood waters had to be convincingly proven. A concerned, dedicated citizens committee proved to be highly effective in providing grass roots information and support for voter approval, which was anticipated to be a two-horned demon. Some local dissent stated that only downtown businessmen would benefit from the project. Raising the necessary finances was critical to the plan, and selling the idea to a limited audience could have alienated those who might have benefitted most.

However, while many bond issues throughout the state were failing, this project passed by a 2-1 majority.

Control of the proposed dams is to fall to the Fergus County Soil and Water Conservation District. Enlarged dams are to be a part of developing a resource element for the entire area. Originally envisioned as simply a recreational device coupled to flood control objectives, the idea of improved lake acreages anticipates 100 and 150 year floods and offers increased recreational development.

By retaining direction, Pfau, the study group, and the City-County planning board were able to coordinate the needed direction, control and publicity. The additional membership of the SCS and citizens committee provided technical ability and grass-roots support. The SCS will continue to handle the normal administration and correspondence.

Benefits of flood control for Lewistown will be better pollution control, better quality of water effluent, better fish producing capacity and increased acreage of ponds at minimum cost.

Marketing Region Study Completed

The Regional Planning Section of The Montana State Division of Planning has just completed a study which establishes boundaries for 17 importana Montana retail trade centers.

The trade centers considered were all near or above the level of a "complete shopping center." The boundaries represented points at which most of the shoppers would travel to one trade center or another.

The boundaries were established by means of a tested formula which makes use of both population and distance between two trade centers as the variables.

It is also recognized that many other Geographic, Social, Political, and Economic factors will cause variations in these boundary positions, but the object of the report is to form a good basis for Montana's marketing regions. The regions are formed largely on an objective basis, and further study can proceed upon consideration of other factors and other levels of trade centers.

The importance of the report is that it would be very helpful to several concerns in fields such as business location, radio advertising, community development, water shedmanagement, city planning, regional planning, and interregional planning, to name but a few.

Indians (Continued from Page 3)

nomic Development to be set aside for use of the seven reservations in Montana.

Federal funds in this instance, may not be used as the local share to match other Federally-funded grants. With this in mind, as in other HUD "701" planning grants, local "in-kind" services are being utilized to the utmost.

By using this approach, a self-help system has been established in that the local people do most of the reconnaissance, research and field studies. The importance of this process is effective understanding of its workability, practically, realism, and its meaning to the overall physical and social economic benefit of the reservation.

One of the best methods of achieving this goal is by involvement of local interests, and their complete understanding of the plan.

Another major factor to the success of the comprehensive plan is the cooperation involvement and awareness of other concerned agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Economic Development, Public Hecalth Service, Office of Economic Opportunity, and other concerned State agencies.

Montana Horizons

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Reports on business concerns appearing in this publication do not constitute an endorsement of either the concern named or its products. Statements in this newsletter do not reflect Board policy unless official action is reported.

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